

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5-7 remain for consideration in this application.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over La France (USP 3,787,716) in view of Barrett (USP 5,373,120) and Popov et al. (USP 4,287,444).

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice. The features of claims 3 and 4 have been substantially included in amended claim 1. Thus, claim 1, as amended, now includes the following limitation:

a pair of flat plate covers for covering upper and lower surfaces of said magnetic members and said coils approximately entirely, exclusive of sides of said magnetic member and said coils which face said field magnets;

Accordingly, claim 1 now includes the feature of a pair of covers covering the upper and lower surfaces of the magnetic member and coils. Furthermore, the plates are intended to cover substantially entirely, except the sides of the magnetic member and coils which face the field magnets. The above feature is illustrated by the examples of top cover 13 and side cover 12 which appear in Figs. 4 and 5 of the instant application. It is submitted that this feature is not disclosed in any of the cited references.

The Office Action, in regard to claim 3, points out the dust cover 40 described in col. 4, line 43 of the Barrett reference. However, as can be seen from Fig. 3, dust cover 40 is simply that, a dust cover to prevent dust from falling down onto primary 36. It does not substantially or

“approximately entirely” cover “upper and lower surfaces” of the magnetic members and coils, such that the side of the magnetic member and coils which face the field magnets are not covered. Furthermore, the dust cover 40 of Barrett does not cover almost entirely as required by claim 1. None of the references disclose this feature, nor does any combination disclose this feature.

Furthermore, there is no specific language in the Office Action regarding claim 7 as to how the references apply to claim 7. It should be noted that claim 7 is a method claim. The cited references do not show the same method of producing a high thrust linear motor as claim 7. For example, in claim 7, the step of “winding coils” refers to, in part, “rotating said magnetic member”. It is submitted that none of the references show this “rotating” step. Accordingly, it is submitted that none of the references, taken either singly or in combination, suggest or discloses the method of claim 7.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the remarks above, claim 5 remains dependent from claim 1, which, as amended, is believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over La France in view of Barret and Popov, and further in view of Halm (USP 5,644,178).

Claim 6 is amended to be dependent from claims 1 or 5. Accordingly, claim 6 is limited to the invention of claim 1 and the additional features as set forth in claim 5 and or 6. Accordingly, since it is believed that claim 1 is now allowable, it is submitted that claim 6 should also be allowable.

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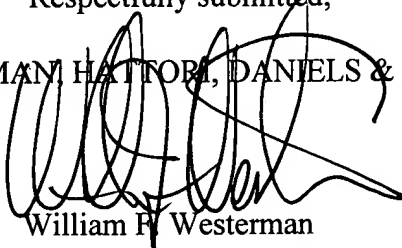
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In view of the amendments to the claims, and the remarks set forth above, distinguishing the claimed inventions from the cited prior art references, applicants submit that the Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that claims 1 and 5-7 be allowed.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William H. Westerman', is written over the firm name.

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